RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR HARIJANS WHILE PROMOTING OFFICIALS

108. Smt. Nagamma (Kalmala).—

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether they are aware of the practice of reserving posts for giving promotion to Harijans, that is in force in Andhra and other States;

(*b*) if so, whether posts will be reserved accordingly to the Harijan officials also in State Government?

Sri VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) State Government is not aware of the practice that the Andhra Pradesh Government is following in this connection.

(*b*) This is under consideration.

SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN GODOWNS

911. Sri B. P. GANGADHAR (Tumkur).—

Will the Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:—

(*a*) the total shortage of foodgrains noticed in the godowns in the State during the years 1963-64 to 1968-69 and the consequent loss incurred by the Government;

(*b*) the reasons for the shortage and who were responsible for such a loss to the State Government;

(*c*) the action the Government has taken to recover the shortage of commodities or its value;

(*d*) whether the Government has written off the loss in cases where officers of Government are involved;

(*e*) if so, the extent of loss written off;

(*f*) whether the amount of shortage of commodities is in lakhs of rupees, if so, the exact amount be kindly stated;

(*g*) whether Government intends to take stern steps against the persons responsible for such losses to the State;

(*h*) whether Government has full control over the receipts, stocking and despatch of foodgrains all over the State; if so, the methods which are in practice with respect to this?

Sri B. VITHALDAS SHETTY. Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies).—

(*a*) The total shortage of foodgrains noticed during 1963-64 to 1968-69 is 7,970 tonnes. These shortages cannot be considered as a loss as they are due to natural causes such as driage, long storage, etc.

(*b*) Shortages usually occur due to driage, spillage, long storage and such other natural causes. Shortages also frequently occur in transit by road and rail. Each case of shortage is examined and action taken to fix up the responsibility. If the shortages occur due to negligence, or omission on the part of the officers/officials in charge of the godown, then action is taken against those responsible.

(*c*) The recovery of cost of the shortages does not arise in cases where the shortage falls within the permissible limits. But, where foodgrains are handled departmentally, and where personal responsibility is fixed for the shortages noticed, action is being taken to recover the value of the shortages from the persons found responsible.

(d) No. The losses are written off only in cases where personal responsibility for carelessness or negligence cannot be fixed or when the amount is found irrecoverable even after taking all the necessary steps to recover it.

(*e*) Only a sum of Rs. 13,840 has been written off so far.

(*f*) Yes. The total value of the shortages may be assessed at Rs. 46,93,441.

(*g*) Yes. Action is always taken to fix the responsibility wherever and whenever the circumstances indicate that carelessness or negligence on the part of the official in charge is involved.

(*h*) Yes. Government have full control over receipts and issues of foodgrains in the godowns. The system of weighment of stocks immediately on arrival has been introduced to fix up responsibilty for the shortages occurring during transit and subsequently. Annual stock verification on cent per cent weighment basis is also being conducted and close supervision over receipts and issues is provided at various levels.

DRINKING WATER WELLS IN SIDDLAGHATTA TALUK

119. Sri B. VENKATARAYAPPA (Siddlaghatta).—

Will the Minister for Development be pleased to State:—

(*a*) the number of villages in Siddlaghatta taluk, Kolar District and the number of villages to which Government have provided drinking water wells;